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ARTHUR J. O'DEA  
LEGAL DEPARTMENT  
COGNEX CORPORATION  
ONE VISION DRIVE  
NATICK, MA 01760-2077

EXAMINER

CHUONG, TRUC T

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2174

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8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/804,309

Applicant(s)

MCCLELLAN, JAMES R.

Examiner

Truc T Chuong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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### DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment A, filed 12/30/03.
1. Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. In the Amendment A, claims 1, 7, 10, 14, and 20-26 are independent claims, and claims 1, 7, 10, and 20-22 are amended. This action is made final.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior office action.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. Claims 1-5, and 7-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bradley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,584,507 B1).

As to claim 1, Bradley teaches method for generating a tree-style graphical representation that depicts simultaneously hierarchical and non-hierarchical interrelationships among a set of entities and that is displayed as a graphical user interface on a screen of a visual display unit, said method comprising:

acquiring a first specification that describes a set of hierarchical interrelationships among said set of entities (col. 3 lines 4-14, col. 9 line 51-col. 10 line 55, elements 205, 208, 216a-216e of fig. 2A is a subset of Admin 204a showing interrelationships in a hierarchical structure), the first specification being for constructing the tree-style graphical representation (Admin 204a and its subsets are displayed like a tree-style graphical representation, fig. 2A);

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acquiring a second specification that describes a set of non-hierarchical interrelationships among said set of entities (elements 527 and 532 of fig. 5B show non-hierarchical interrelationships among the display 502), the second specification being for constructing the tree-style graphical representation (display 502 of fig. 5B);

constructing said tree-style graphical representation simultaneously representing both said set of hierarchical interrelationships and said set of non-hierarchical interrelationships among said set of entities (figs. 2A-B, and 5A-B); and

displaying said tree-style graphical representation to produce said graphical user interface on said screen of said visual display unit (figs. 2A-B, and 5A-B).

As to claim 2, Bradley teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein said acquiring a first specification includes at least one of:

extracting said first specification from a digital file stored on a computer readable medium (col. 6 lines 41-67, and figs. 2A-B); and

obtaining said first specification from an interactive graphical user interface (figs. 2A-B).

As to claim 3, it is individually similar in scope to claim 2 above; therefore, rejected under similar rationale.

As to claim 4, Bradley teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein said constructing further comprises:

forming an initial tree-style graphical representation that depicts said set of hierarchical interrelationships among said set of entities (figs. 2A-B); and

incorporating said set of non-hierarchical interrelationships into said initial tree-style graphical representation, by depicting said set of non-hierarchical interrelationships without

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altering said set of hierarchical interrelationships depicted in said initial tree-style graphical representation, to produce said tree-style graphical representation (figs. 2A-B, and figs. 5A-B).

As to claim 5, Bradley teaches the method according to claim 4, wherein said forming includes graphically depicting a hierarchical interrelationship in such a manner that the child entity in said hierarchical interrelationship appears left-indented from where the parent entity in said hierarchical interrelationship appears (figs. 2A-B, and figs. 5A-B).

As to claim 7, Bradley teaches a method for modifying a tree-style graphical representation that depicts simultaneously hierarchical and non-hierarchical interrelationships among a set of entities and that is displayed as a modified graphical user interface on a screen of a visual display unit, said method comprises at least one of:

adding a new entity to the depiction of said tree-style graphical representation that depicts simultaneously hierarchical and non-hierarchical interrelationships among a set of entities (Create Option, col. 10 lines 1-9, figs. 3A-E, and displays Admin and 520 of fig. 5B); and

deleting a depicted entity from the depiction of said tree-style graphical representation (Delete Option, col. 10 lines 1-9) that depicts simultaneously hierarchical and non-hierarchical interrelationships among a set of entities (Any folder under Admin can be deleted, and it will simultaneously reflex changes to each element as showed in fig. 5B).

As to claim 8, Bradley teaches the method according to claim 7, wherein said adding further comprises:

defining said new entity (col. 10 lines 25-40);

specifying a position in said tree-style graphical representation where said new entity can be inserted (folder and subfolder, col. 10 lines 1-23);

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modifying said tree-style graphical representation to incorporate said new entity at said position (col. 18 lines 47-67); and

displaying said tree-style graphical representation, modified by said modifying to produce said modified graphical user interface on said screen of said display unit (col. 10 lines 1-16, and figs. 3A-E).

As to claim 9, Bradley teaches the method according to claim 7, wherein said deleting further comprises:

selecting said depicted entity from said tree-style graphical representation (figs. 2A-B, and figs. 5A-B);

identifying any hierarchical interrelationship and any non-hierarchical interrelationship, associated with said depicted entity (elements 208 and 203 of figs. 2A-B, and figs. 5A-B);

modifying said tree-style graphical representation to incorporate the deletion of said depicted entity and the removal of said any hierarchical interrelationship and any non-hierarchical interrelationship, identified by said identifying (Updater, col. 21 lines 16-64, Delete Option, col. 22 lines 61-67); and

displaying said tree-style graphical representation, modified by said modifying to produce said modified graphical user interface on said screen of said display unit (col. 10 lines 1-16, col. 21 lines 16-64, and figs. 2A-B).

As to claim 10, Bradley teaches a method for modifying a tree-style graphical representation that depicts simultaneously hierarchical and non-hierarchical interrelationships among a set of entities and that is displayed as a graphical user interface on a screen of a visual display unit, said method comprises at least one of:

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adding a new hierarchical interrelationship to the depiction of said tree-style graphical representation that depicts simultaneously hierarchical and non-hierarchical interrelationships among a set of entities (Create Option, col. 10 lines 1-9, figs. 3A-E, and displays Admin and 520 of fig. 5B);

deleting a depicted hierarchical interrelationship from the depiction of said tree-style graphical representation (Delete Option, col. 10 lines 1-9) that depicts simultaneously hierarchical and non-hierarchical interrelationships among a set of entities (Any folder under Admin can be deleted, and it will simultaneously reflex changes to each element as showed in fig. 5B);

updating a depicted hierarchical interrelationship in the depiction of said tree-style graphical representation that depicts simultaneously hierarchical and non-hierarchical interrelationships among a set of entities (Updater, col. 21 lines 16-64, any folder under Admin can be added, and it will simultaneously reflect changes to each element as showed in fig. 5B).

As to claim 11, it can be rejected under similar rationale to claim 8. Note the rejection of claim 8 above.

As to claims 12 and 13, they can be rejected under similar rationale to claim 9. Note the rejection of claim 9 above.

As to claim 14, Bradley teaches a method for modifying a tree-style graphical representation that depicts simultaneously hierarchical and non-hierarchical interrelationships among a set of entities and that is displayed as a modified graphical user interface on a screen of a visual display unit, said method comprises at least one of:

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adding a new non-hierarchical interrelationship to the depiction of said tree style graphical representation (Create Option, col. 10 lines 1-9, figs. 3A-E, and displays Admin and 520 of fig. 5B);

deleting a depicted non-hierarchical interrelationship from the depiction of said tree-style graphical representation (Any folder under Admin can be deleted, and it will simultaneously reflex changes to each element as showed in fig. 5B);

updating a depicted non-hierarchical interrelationship in the depiction of said tree-style graphical representation (Updater, col. 21 lines 16-64, any folder under Admin can be added, and it will simultaneously reflex changes to each element as showed in fig. 5B).

As to claims 15 and 16, they can be rejected under similar rationale to claim 9. Note the rejection of claim 9 above.

As to claim 17, Bradley teaches the method according to claim 14, wherein said updating further comprises:

selecting said depicted non-hierarchical interrelationship from said tree style graphical representation (figs. 2A-B, and figs. 5A-B);

revising the specification associated with said depicted non-hierarchical interrelationship to produce a modified non-hierarchical interrelationship (Edit of figs. 2A-B);

modifying said tree-style graphical representation to replace said depicted non-hierarchical interrelationship by said modified non-hierarchical interrelationship (Updater, col. 21 lines 16-64, Delete Option, col. 22 lines 61-67); and



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displaying said tree-style graphical representation, modified by said modifying to produce said modified graphical user interface on said screen of said display unit (col. 10 lines 1-16, col. 21 lines 16-64, and figs. 2A-B).

As to claim 18, Bradley teaches obtaining as claim 2, wherein said obtaining further comprises:

displaying various entities from said set of entities in said graphical user interface;  
selecting a parent entity from said various entities within said interactive graphical interface;

selecting a child entity from said various entities within said interactive graphical interface; and

defining a hierarchical interrelationship between said parent entity and said child entity (figs. 2A-B, and figs. 5A-B).

As to claim 19, it can be rejected under similar rationale to claim 1. Note the rejection of claim 1 above.

As to claims 20-23, they are computer program product claims of the method claims 1, 7, 10, and 14. Note the rejections of claim 1, 7, 10, and 14 above respectively.

As to claims 24-26, they are system claims of the method claims 1, 2, and 13. Note the rejections of claims 1, 2, and 13 above respectively

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,584,507 B1) in view of Dong et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,380,937 B1).

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As to claim 6, Bradley teaches the method according to claim 4, wherein said incorporating by depicting includes graphically displaying a connection between any two entities involved in any one of said set of non-hierarchical interrelationships (Note the rejection of claim 1 above and figs. 2A-B, and 5A-B); however, Bradley does not show any one set of non-hierarchical interrelationships on the right side of where said two entities appear in said initial tree-style graphical representation. Dong clearly teaches this feature (hierarchical tree connectors 54 of figs. 3-5, and col. 4 line 59-col. 5 line 40). It would have been obvious at the time of the invention that a person with ordinary skill in the art would want to have the hierarchical tree connectors of Dong in to Bradley's environment to reflect changes in relationships between groups (entities) or subgroups (col. 6 lines 1-5).

### *Response to Arguments*

5. Applicant's arguments filed 12/30/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argued the following:

Bradley does not show sets of hierarchical and non-hierarchical interrelationships among elements which are simultaneously displayed on a tree-style graphical representation.

The Examiner disagrees for the following reasons:

Bradley clearly teaches that elements 205, 208, 216a-216e of fig. 2A are a subset of Admin 204a showing interrelationships in a hierarchical structure. Admin Folder (similar layouts as Admin 204a of fig. 2A above) and Elements 527 and 532 of fig. 5B

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show non-hierarchical interrelationships among the display 502, and they are simultaneously displayed side by side in tree-style graphical representation (figs. 2A-B, and 5A-B). Moreover, each set can also be added, deleted, or updated to reflect any changes among elements as shown in fig. 5B (Note the rejection of claim 14 above).

### *Conclusion*

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Gasser (U.S. Patent No. 6,636,250 B1) teaches hierarchical/non-hierarchical, simultaneously displays, and interrelationships among elements (cols. 2-21 and figs. 2-10).

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truc T Chuong whose telephone number is 703-305-5753. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th and alternate Fridays 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on 703-308-0640. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Truc T. Chuong

03/15/04

*Kristine Kincaid*  
KRISTINE KINCAID  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100